LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (previously presented) A multi-media management system comprising;

an electronic processor for controlling access to stored multi-media assets utilizing a database, the database containing a plurality of individual media objects the instantiations of which include video images, still images and text;

a server for enabling the stored assets to be accessed via the database by an outside user via a communications network, and an electronic processor controlled taxonomy system allowing a user to access the stored assets via the server, the taxonomy system linking categories of media objects in the database in a hierarchical tree system formed of nodes with each node representing a category, there being a basic parent/sibling relationship between nodes of the tree,

and wherein the management system has, for a selected plurality of media objects as represented by the categories, association links linking categories located at different levels in the hierarchical tree so that a user can traverse the tree by viewing a first media object in a first category at a first level in the tree, and then directly viewing a second object in a second category at a second level in the tree, where the first and second categories do not have a parent and child relationship in the tree.

Claim 2. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 1, wherein selected nodes of the tree are association nodes with each association node providing a one-way link to another node of the tree so as to provide an association link between nodes.

Claim 3. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 2, wherein selected association nodes can be linked so as to provide a two-way access between the nodes via

association links.

Claim 4. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of media objects in the database have associated proxies, a proxy being a representation of an original instantiation of the media object in a different format or location.

Claim 5. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 4, wherein when an instantiation is video data, a proxy is a compressed form of the video data.

Claim 6. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 5 wherein the processor, in response to a request for downloading media having at least one proxy, determines whether or not the media or a selected proxy is to be downloaded.

Claim 7. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 1 adapted to generate and store a thumbnail of a video instantiation, the thumbnail being composed of an integer number of frames of the video instantiation, separately displayed in a single display frame, the integer number of frames being separated one from the other by intervening frames in the original video or film.

Claim 8. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 1 wherein, in response to a request for stored media, the electronic processor is adapted to check the parameters of the request and to customize requested media when it is displayed or downloaded in response to a determination by the parameter check that such customization is required.

Claim 9. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 8 adapted to check the origin of request for access to stored media and to customize the media when it is delivered.

Claim 10. (original) The multi-media management system according to claim 1 further comprising at least one ingest station for generating media for storage in the management system, the ingest station having a browser compatible with a Web server, recording equipment for generating video/audio data, and a logger for editing recorded data.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein media objects of the first category are assigned a different type value from that assigned to media objects of the second category.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A method for managing and accessing data, comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of media objects in a computer-readable medium; and

accessing the media objects by following nodes on a taxonomy tree, the taxonomy tree comprising a plurality of nodes having parent and child relationships, where a first plurality of parent nodes is at a higher level in the tree than a second plurality of child nodes, and wherein two nodes at different levels in the tree have different assigned type values, and wherein the taxonomy tree further includes one or more association links allowing direct access between first and second associated nodes that do not bear a parent and child relationship in the tree.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of storing includes storing the media objects according to a second tree structure.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the association links will permit a user who is accessing a media object associated with the first associated node to directly access a second associated node, without accessing a parent node of the first associated node, but will not permit a user who is accessing a media object associated with the second associated node to directly access the first associated node without accessing a parent node of the first associated node.